

## THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

TUESDAY JULY 24

Former Governor Taylor wants to speak in Kentucky but he has not been able to arrange for an armored train.

The streets are left in bad condition by sewer contractors, though the wagon and bicycle repair shops are not complaining.

The fact that George Manson drew a large balance from the bank before he disappeared would tend to show that he proposed to take a journey. That theory is borne out by statements made by Manson early last week that he might go to the Coast for a stay of several weeks. There are many theories which strive to place Mr. Manson in concealment in Honolulu or its environs but they are not so reasonable, in view of the careful search made by the police, as that which accounts for him as an eleventh-hour passenger on the Alameda.

Hawaii is governed by a set of Territorial officers and the Legislature. To add six or eight sets of county officers, two sets of municipal officers and a dozen sets of village officers, would be to devote large sums which are needed for public works to the salary roll without getting any better government than we now have. The city and county of San Francisco use \$2,000,000 per year to pay salaries and wages. In the little city of San Diego hard times following the boom compelled the authorities to scrow expenses down to the last notch, yet they could not get off for less than \$10,000 per month in salaries and there were county expenses besides. Nothing is clearer than that county and municipal governments would quadruple taxes here without giving the people better public administration. The only persons to benefit by it would be the professional "Americans" who want offices and who take boanful refuge in their nativity in the same way and for the same reasons that Dr. Johnson's man took refuge in his patriotism.

### LOCAL FINANCES.

The financial strain having been clearly explained in the commercial column of this paper there is a visible sense of relief in the business community. It is the mysterious that scares and the stringency in Island finances ceased to be a mystery when it came to be analyzed in cold type. The fact simply is that we have gone ahead a bit fast with development but it is also true that we have a \$25,000,000 sugar crop the returns from which, when they are fully in, will set the Islands on their financial feet again. Between now and January 1st, \$15,000,000 should arrive as revenue from sugar shipments besides very large amounts for the sale of stock. In the next thirty days \$500,000 will be released from the Postal Savings Department. Bonds are being offered abroad with every prospect of success; money is coming here in large blocks for investment. Whatever the present may be the immediate future outlook is good.

Hawaii may be compared to a very rich man who has spent his income too fast and must be patient until the next dividend day comes around. Circumstances are such that he cannot immediately borrow; he must simply hold on. Fortunately in the local case patience will soon be rewarded for relief is already in sight.

### THE LEPROSY QUESTION.

The segregation of lepers is carried on in a way that suggests the topsyturvydom of a Gilbert & Sullivan opera. People who go to the Settlement are told to wear gloves and to avoid using glasses and plates from which the lepers eat—and yet they are permitted to clasp lepers in their arms and kiss them. Mail from Molokai is fumigated on its arrival here yet dogs born and brought up among the lepers are taken from the Settlement and used as pets. Money arriving from Kalau-papa and the other village is now fumigated but natives returning from there who have held decaying relatives in their arms for hours are not even made to take a bath. They go home as they are to carry the germs of the most dreadful disease known to history among their fellows.

The strangest thing is that Hawaii has come to regard this appalling abuse as a matter of course. We all get excited when the cholera appears and fight it inch by inch. On this account its victims on these Islands number less than one hundred; so do the victims of the bubonic plague. First and last, 6000 people have been taken to the Settlement on Molokai. Were cholera to show one case tomorrow, quarantine lines would be drawn, the city would be cleaned up again and there would be a house-to-house inspection. Yet when over one hundred natives return here from a day's personal contact with the lepers, contact that had all the intimacy of the family reunion, we do nothing to safeguard ourselves and them from the white plague. The natives resume their ordinary occupations. They drive our hacks, make our leis or poi, gather fruit for us, perhaps deliver our meat or groceries; and their children go with ours to the public schools. The reason for it all lies partly in precedent and partly in pity. But isn't it time Hawaii made new precedents and gave the uninfected population now exposed to an incurable and communicable disease some of that pity which wastes itself upon the unburied dead?

There should be a new program for the treatment of lepers. Segregation should be made to segregate; the friends of the smitten should take leave of them when they go to Molokai as they would take leave of the dead, save that there should be no personal contact. A wall should be raised between the clean and the unclean. Those with whom the lepers were living when the disease appeared should be segregated for a period of years; direct correspondence with the village of the living corpses should be interdicted. We do not know that such drastic though necessary reforms can be had through the Legislature, but if not we are sure of an appeal to Congress.

### HEALTH AND CLIMATE.

The question asked by a correspondent if the Hawaiian climate is bad for women may be answered in a way by the statement that there is no Hawaiian climate. Each geographical subdivision of the group has its own climate; in some places, owing to altitude, a bracing and crisp one; in another a climate of actual snow and ice; in another the climate of the sub-tropics and in still another the dank and miasmatic heats of the true tropics. Even the difference between one part and another of Honolulu is easily perceptible. There are women and men too who fall sick on the plains and thrive in the Nuuanu valley and who thrive still better on the heights of Tantalus. And speaking of Tantalus it is true that five hundred miles of California latitude, counting north from the frontier of Lower California, do not make so much difference in climate as lies between Fort street and the nearby and easily accessible crest of that delectable mountain.

The consensus of opinion among doctors seems to be that Honolulu has spoiled the emollient qualities in its climate by insanitation; but some of them hold that when cesspools are abolished and the sewer operated, we shall recover our physical tone. Perhaps. But the remark of one doctor that Honolulu air is miasmatic by night points to another and more serious source of danger and that is the semicircle of flooded land in the embrace of which Honoluluans make their homes. Think of building a city in a swamp or on an island in a swamp. Every doctor would advise against such a course or call it suicidal; yet what is the difference, hygienically, between building a city in a swamp and building a swamp about a city? This last is what we have done in Honolulu. We have deliberately surrendered our suburbs in many directions, to the rice field and the taro patch; have created a boundless contiguity of marsh where the frog croaks and the poisonous mists arise every warm night. There is a small oftentimes on King street at three o'clock in the morning when the wind is southerly, that reminds one of the Bayou Teche country in Louisiana or the everglades of the Florida peninsula and which prompts the hope that the authorities will, before we all get malaria, adopt the Savannah plan and prohibit the flooding of land for agricultural purposes at any place within three miles from city limits.

We note the advice of one doctor that women should go to the Coast every year or two for a few months and recover from the effects of local enervation. The prescription is one the most women would like to take. So is a trip to Paris or to the fjords of Norway. But every woman cannot pack up when the doctor orders and go even to California. Many women cannot bear the expense; some cannot leave young children or invalid relatives; others do not want to turn their husbands over to a boarding house annually or biennially while they go away "for months." Those who can take the California cure as a regular thing may not be one in a hundred. What is to be done for the multitude of stay-at-homes?

The man who will build a commodious hotel with cottages annexed on the top of Tantalus or on some near-by elevation, make its rates reasonable and access easy and cheap will help solve the problem; the next man who will put a hotel of the same character on the slopes of Haleakala, 5000 feet above sea level, will also confer a boon on enervated Islanders and after that the man who makes the snow line over on Hawaii accessible to health-seekers will round out the sum of hygienic achievement in hotel building. The point is that these Islands, properly opened up, would give one all the climatic change that ill-health might require. Feeling badly from humid lowland heats a man or woman could simply ride up hill until the right climate was found. Nothing could be simpler or, with money spent on roads and hotels, more practicable.

### THE MARINE PARK.

The Navy does not need the city's water-front park. The place is too much exposed for naval purposes and within a year or two Congress may open Pearl Harbor. The city park was taken over by the Navy Department because it bordered deep water and seemed to be lying around loose. We doubt that it would have been so segregated if the Government had known what the public wanted it for and what they had determined, under the authority of a legislative enactment, to do with it.

Unless the park is recovered and devoted to the use originally named, the citizens of Honolulu will have no way to reach the seashore within city limits save by going to some hotel preserve, traversing private property or making use of the shadeless beach road which skirts the shallows of the broad reef. The marine park is handy for everyone; it is exceptionally well-placed for sea and mountain views and if laid out with lawn and trees would become the favorite recreation ground of the people.

A petition to the President is in order. So good a cause as the recovery of our seaside park deserves united public action. Why would it not be well for the Chamber of Commerce to pass a resolution and follow it up with a memorial, which the citizens would generally sign? That might bring things to a focus at Washington in short order.

Some lime trees planted on Tantalus bore themselves to death and their owners did not undertake to raise others. With judicious pruning and thinning out of the fruit these trees would probably have done well. All that is needed here in raising limes is some knowledge of fruit-growing. As for the soil and some of the climates of Hawaii they are as well-adapted to the lime as are the places in Central America and Tahiti where the fruit is exported.

Public sentiment is taking a firm tone on the leprosy question and there is good reason to believe that a way will yet be found to make segregation segregate.

From its loud call for a band we infer that Hilo intends to set its high kicking to music.

### OF CURRENT INTEREST.

#### Distinctive Garbs in Porto Rico

"When Lafayette came back to this country after the Revolution," said Major A. C. Sharpe, former judge advocate general of Porto Rico, in a Washington interview the other day, "he inquired what had become of the common people. He referred to the passing of distinctive dress for people of the professional class. These dress distinctions, which used to be in the colonies, prevail in Porto Rico. It is possible to distinguish a lawyer, a newspaper man, a doctor or a priest by his daily garb. But even in Porto Rico that will disappear in time under American administration. 'The hostility to Americans in Porto Rico,' added Major Sharpe, 'is largely of a political character. About the time that the war with Spain began the people of Porto Rico were to have autonomy. The plan of autonomy allowed participation in their own affairs beyond anything the Americans have yet allowed them. Quite a party of Porto Ricans, who, after being excluded for many years from office on account of favoritism for native Spaniards, can be excused, perhaps, for feeling disgruntled because just as they were about to share in public administration the privilege was taken away from them.'

#### Colonel Wiswell's Relic Cane.

During and following the recent Republican convention at Philadelphia there were many exchanges of testimonials to be retained as relics of the occasion. One of the most interesting mementos is a cane which was presented to Colonel Wiswell, who was sergeant-at-arms of the convention. The cane is a polished apple stick with a white bone head, made and presented by Edward F. Showers, of West Philadelphia, who was one of the doorkeepers of the convention. The head is fashioned from a human bone dug from the battlefield of Gettysburg by Mr. Showers, and is undoubtedly a portion of the remains of one of the heroes of that terrible engagement, but whether of a "John Reb" or a "Yank" Mr. Showers is unable to say.

#### A Defiant Priest.

There is now a clergyman of the Church of England who has married his deceased wife's sister, in spite of all the prelates in the house of lords who vote consistently against any recognition of the practice. The name of this daring innovator is Rev. Mr. George Poynder, and he is a priest of the diocese of Melbourne. His bishop, Dr. Goe, formerly rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, has suspended him for twelve months, but this apparently is only a formal tribute to the conventional church feeling on the subject, as there is an understanding that he will receive a new appointment in the diocese at the expiration of his extended honeymoon.

#### Another Anglicized New Yorker.

Marshall Owen Roberts, who became a naturalized British subject a few days ago, is a son of the late Marshall Owen Roberts, of New York, a mining king who died in 1889, leaving an estate valued at \$3,000,000. He was later the widow married Colonel Ralph Vivian, of the British army, since which time young Roberts has made his home in England. At his mother's death the estate will be divided between him and Miss Evelyn Van Wart, a granddaughter of the mining king, who has also lived in England for years.

#### Rheumatism Cure.

Victor Smith: A sure cure for rheumatism would fetch a billion dollars at auction. The number of alleged cures is legion. Here is the latest, and at the same time one of the most ancient, having been handed down through generations of simple country folk: Steep the green berries of the coffee tree and drink a teaful of the liquid at each meal. Old Aunt Frances says that her daughter, who was nearly dead with "cemetery" rheumatism, tried it for two weeks and got perfectly well.

#### Now His Book Sells Well.

Major General Baden-Powell's book written in 1896 and entitled "The Downfall of Premph" has been reprinted in England and is having a great sale for obvious reasons. One sentence from it admirably expresses the whole philosophy of the hero of Mafeking, and it expresses it in very characteristic language: "A smile and a stick will carry you through any difficulty in the world, more especially if you act upon the old West Coast motto, 'Softly, softly, cathee monkey!'"

#### Municipal Telephone System.

Glasgow, which is famous already for its experiments in municipal ownership of public utilities, is to inaugurate a municipal telephone exchange for 5,000 subscribers. The plant is to be of the most modern kind. It is expected to pay for itself and its running expenses at an annual charge to each subscriber of about \$2.25. The charge by the private corporation now doing business is \$50. But, as a cynical writer suggests, in Glasgow they do not mix politics and municipal business.

#### A \$40,000 Check Lost and Found.

A check for \$40,000, drawn by the New York Stock exchange firm of W. L. Stow & Co. upon the Continental National bank, to the order of the Corn Exchange bank, and certified by the Continental bank, lay in the gutter at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets for a while yesterday. It had been dropped by a messenger of the brokerage firm. Payment on it was stopped. A laborer picked up the check and brought it to the office of W. L. Stow & Co., who gave him \$25 for his trouble.

#### Lime and Teeth.

One of New York's most fashionable dentists, examining a child's teeth, remarked to its mother: "You should move immediately to a lime country if you want your children to have good teeth. The water here will ruin them." In testimony whereof he produced a statement that the residents of the state of Oregon have the worst teeth of any people in the United States, all because there is no lime water in that country.

#### Calve's Long Shot Bet.

If Calve did win a wager of £1000 by sleeping at Windsor castle the night she sang there for the queen's entertainment she will probably not be invited on again. It is the queen's custom on these occasions to send the performers back on the same evening, but Mrs. Calve, according to the story, had such a cold that she was invited to remain. She is said to have wagered £10 against £1000 with Alfred Rothschild that she could do it.

#### Odd Substitute For a Ring.

A marriage ceremony was performed in Toronto recently with a substitute for the ring, which, though old and amusing, was appropriate for the occasion. The couple went over from the American side of the St. Lawrence river, but forgot to take a ring. As there was no ring to be had in the house, the resourceful clergyman sent for his wife's sewing scissors, and, with the finger clasp, completed the ceremony.

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